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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

556PM URGENT 7/11/67 RDC

TO: DIRECTOR (62-109060) AND DALLAS (89-43)

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (89-69)

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS, NOV. TWENTYTWO, SIXTYTHREE, MISCELLANEOUS - INFO CONCERNING, OO: DALLAS.

NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM, RED FLASH EDITION, JULY ELEVEN INSTANT, INDICATES THAT ~~DA~~ District Attorney GARRISON'S OFFICE HAS CHARGED RICHARD TOWNLEY, TELEVISION NEWSMAN FOR WDSU, WITH ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE AND INTIMIDATE PERRY RAYMONDS RUSSO AND ATTEMPTED INTIMIDATION OF MARLEEN MANCUSO, FORMER WIFE OF GORDON NOVEL. ARTICLE RELATES THAT THESE CHARGES ARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PREVIOUSLY FILED CHARGES AGAINST WALTER SHERIDAN, NBC.

THE CHARGES ARE ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE RUSSO BY OFFERING HIM ONE, LODGING IN THE STATE OF CALIF.: TWO, GUARANTEE BY NBC OF EMPLOYMENT OR JOB SECURITY IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA OR THE STATE OF CALIF.: THREE, PAYMENT OF THE FEE FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES OF AN ATTORNEY FOR EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS.

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MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

No 89-69-3301

OR ANY OTHER PROCEEDINGS: FOUR, PROTECTION AND IMMUNITY FROM THE STATE OF LA. Louisiana AND THE OFFICE OF THE DA FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS, SERVING AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO INFLUENCE CROSS-EXAMINING TRIAL ATTORNEYS NOT TO DAMAGE THE CHARACTER AND REPUTATION OF PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO.

ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT THIS IS A RESULT OF THE NBC PROGRAM TELECAST ON JUNE NINETEEN LAST. THE BILL OF INFORMATION AGAINST TOWNLEY SAID "RICHARD TOWNLEY DID WILFULLY AND LAWFULLY USE VIOLENCE, FORCE AND THREATS UPON ONE PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO...WITH INTENT TO INFLUENCE HIS CONDUCT IN RELATION TO HIS DUTY". THE THIRD CHARGE LEVELED AGAINST TOWNLEY INVOLVES MARLEEN MANCUSO. THIS INVOLVES A JUNE TWENTYONE ALLEGATION BY GARRISON THAT THE NBC NEWS TEAM HAD ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH HER TESTIMONY AS A WITNESS IN THE BURGLARY CONSPRIACY AGAINST NOVEL. SHE IS QUOTED AS SAYING TOWNLEY TOLD HER GARRISON WOULD BE "DESTROYED". "HE SAID THEY WERE NOT MERELY GOING TO DISCREDIT THE PROBE BUT GARRISON WOULD GET A JAIL SENTENCE". IT IS ALLEGED THAT TOWNLEY

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ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE MANCUSO TO APPEAR ON THE TELECAST BY TELLING HER A "PRIOR INTERVIEW" WOULD PUT HER IN "GOOD LIGHT" WHEN SHE WAS FINALLY SUBPOENAED.

ASSISTANT DA RICHARD V. BURNES IN FILING THE CHARGES ADDED THAT TOWNLEY USED VIOLENCE, FORCE AND THREATS UPON ONE MARLEEN MANCUSO .. WITH INTENT TO INFLUENCE HER CONDUCT IN RELATION TO HER DUTY AS A WITNESS. HE ADDED FOR THE STATEDS ITEM "FROM THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO OUR OFFICE IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HAS VIOLATED LA. PUBLIC BRIBERY AND INTIMIDATION OF WITNESSES STATUTE.

WARRANT WAS ISSUED FOR TOWNLEY AND HIS ATTORNEY STEPHEN LEMANN, SAID HE AND TOWNLEY WOULD APPEAR TO POST SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS BOND INSTANT DATE.

NO PRIO BEING SUBMITTED.

END.

BGM

FBI WASH DC

TU CLRP